

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION
CIVIL CASE NO. 1:19-cv-00260-MR**

S. SHANE SMITH,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
)	
JUSTIN LYTLE,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

JUDGMENT

THIS MATTER came on for trial and was heard by the undersigned judge, and a jury was duly empaneled and answered the issue presented as follows:

1. Did the Defendant take an adverse action against the Plaintiff because the Plaintiff engaged in a protected activity?

Answer: NO

Based on the foregoing fact as found by the jury, the Court concludes as a matter of law that Justin Lytle did not violate Plaintiff's right to be free from retaliation for exercising his rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.¹

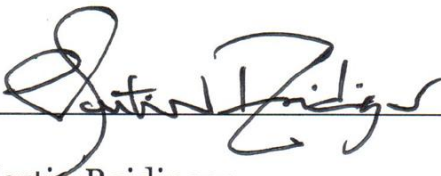
¹ Upon the close of the Plaintiff's evidence and again at the close of Defendant's evidence,

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Plaintiff shall recover nothing from the Defendant in the form of damages.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this action is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** in its entirety.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed: March 17, 2022



Martin Reidinger
Chief United States District Judge



the Defendant made an oral motion for judgment as a matter of law under Rule 50(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which the Court denied.